Photo: Americanization School 1936-1948. Abilene High School Annual 1938

In September 1936 the Mexican students were sent to the old school formerly used by the Negros students. The "new" five-room wooden framed Mexican school located at 541 North 8th became known as the Americanization School to students that attended from the barrio. Elena Hernandez remembers that "All the Mexican kids were going to that school - that was our school." The school only taught six grades with the most ambitious students continuing their studies in other city schools. By 1938 the school attendance was 216 students with five teachers. The school on North 8th would serve the Hispanic students until 1948 when a new brick school, Sam Houston Elementary School, was erected at 317 North 6th.